

significantly more, so that we have ended up with a great deal of deficit spending. The difference between \$1.4 trillion and \$1.9 trillion in revenues, between the \$1.4 trillion we estimated 5 years ago and the \$1.9 trillion that is actually going to happen, even takes into consideration the tax cut we did last spring.

I would suggest that it behooves the United States to have the kind of economic expansion we want by not going deeper into debt, causing extra demand by the government in the money that is available for borrowing, which is ultimately going to increase interest rates and ultimately going to have a depressive effect on the economy.

I would close by again urging my Republican and Democratic friends to work towards a total unified balanced budget.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BALLENGER). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. OTTER) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, ever present to Your people and closest to those in most need of Your mercy, we commend to You this day the Members of the United States House of Representatives with all their prayerful concerns.

Last week both Republican and Democratic Members set time aside to be on retreat, Lord.

As they drew away from the daily routine to gain deeper perspective, hopefully Your presence was made known to them.

As they examined issues facing this Nation and they crafted plans for the future, unexpectedly, Your provident love lifted their hearts to greater service to Your people.

As they became more aware of different opinions and the many possibilities open to achieve a common purpose, surprisingly Your spirit invited them to be respectful of others in every debate, patient in listening, as well as committed to finding solid resolve.

May personal convictions always be refined when civility reigns.

May partisan formulations always give way to what You require of this Nation.

For You are the eternal guide and strength for each Member personally and for the House as a whole both now and forever. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is Private Calendar day. The Clerk will call the bill on the Private Calendar.

#### NANCY B. WILSON

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 392) for the relief of Nancy B. Wilson.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be passed over without prejudice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This concludes the call of the Private Calendar.

#### MORE CRITICISMS OVER YUCCA MOUNTAIN: WHEN WILL THE DOE RESPOND?

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, last week the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board joined an ever-expanding list of independent experts who are criticizing the science being touted by the Department of Energy regarding the Yucca Mountain Project.

In its report the board called the DOE's science "weak to moderate."

Board member and hydrologist Paul Craig added that "many of the DOE's assumptions regarding Yucca Mountain are extreme and unrealistic."

John Bartlett, former Director of DOE's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, stated that "the documentation does not provide a sound foundation for the basis of a site recommendation."

Moreover, the GAO has raised its own concerns with the Yucca Mountain Project, stating that "making a site recommendation at this time would not be prudent or practical."

Mr. Speaker, when will the DOE begin to answer the serious questions being raised about its failed science?

Hopefully they will do that before going any further into the site recommendation process and before the lives of millions of Americans are jeopardized.

#### ANNIVERSARY OF SIGNING OF TREATY OF GUADALUPE HIDALGO

(Mr. UDALL of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, February 2, 1848, marks the anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

This is a treaty between Mexico and the United States which guaranteed Mexican citizens who remained in the United States certain property rights. One of the promises was to secure and protect the property rights of Mexican and Spanish citizens that have been granted land grants from Spanish and Mexican Governments.

The U.S. violated these promises. The General Accounting Office is looking into this historic wrong, and I have introduced a bill to remedy the situation and to correct these injustices. I urge my colleagues to help me in this effort. Please review my legislation and take a good hard look at it.

#### NO SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR JOHN WALKER LINDH

(Mr. COBLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, much has been said about John Walker Lindh, the 20-year-old Californian who joined forces with the Taliban. Some observers have suggested that we cut him some slack since he is only 20 years of age.

There were 20-year-olds who showed up for work on 9/11 at the World Trade Center. Who cut them slack? There are 20-year-olds fighting in Afghanistan today, 20-year-old firefighters, 20-year-old policemen, 20-year-old EMS personnel who responded on 9/11. Who cut them slack? No. This young man should be prosecuted, and if convicted, appropriate punishment should be forthcoming.

Our Attorney General said it more eloquently than I, but I paraphrase: Simply because an accused is of tender years, Mr. Speaker, he is worthy of no special defense when he has committed criminal acts. No special treatment should be available to this young man or to others like him.

#### CAROL WRIGHT

(Mr. MATHESON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, with the Salt Lake City Winter Olympic Games just a few days away, today the Olympic torch will pass through Parowan, Utah.